Japanese Beetle Eradication Program
Public Health Fact Sheet

Merit®: A Larval Insecticide

Tempo®: An Adult Insecticide

What is Merit®?

Merit® is the trade name for an insecticide called imidacloprid. It is used to control a variety of insects on agricultural commodities (grains, fruits, vegetables), turf, seed, and as a soil treatment. Merit® controls grubs (beetle larvae) on contact.

What is Tempo®?

Tempo® is the trade name for an insecticide called cyfluthrin, which is used on agricultural crops, and in urban settings. Tempo® is a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide that kills insects by contact and by stomach poison action. It is used to control a variety of chewing and sucking insects, including the Japanese beetle. Cyfluthrin controls crawling, flying and wood-infesting insect pests on indoor and outdoor surfaces. It is also used to control pests of trees, landscape ornamental plants, residential and commercial lawns, and food plants such as hops, cereal, corn, deciduous fruit, peanuts, potatoes and other vegetables. Tempo® is used indoors to control insects in hospitals, food and feed handling establishments, homes and aircraft. Tempo® is also used to control stored product insects in pantries.

Is Merit® or Tempo® harmful to humans or pets?

The application of these two insecticides (Merit 2F and Tempo SC Ultra) consistent with their labeling and registration present a low level of risk to human health. The effects of exposure to any substance depend on the dose, the duration and how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

How likely is Merit® or Tempo® to cause cancer?

There is no evidence of cancer effects for Merit® or Tempo® in humans or in long-term animal studies.

What happens to Merit® or Tempo® when they enter the environment?

Imidacloprid (**Merit®**) has an extremely low vapor pressure and therefore does not volatilize into the atmosphere. Imidacloprid is generally not persistent in aquatic environments and is quickly degraded by sunlight. Field studies have shown that the parent compound and its metabolites have limited mobility in soil and are not likely to leach to groundwater.

Cyfluthrin (**Tempo®**) is photosensitive and readily breaks down following exposure to sunlight. It is highly immobile in soil and unstable in water. Cyfluthrin has limited mobility in soil and is not likely to leach to groundwater.

Where can I get more information?

National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), 1-800-858-7378, http://www.npic.orst.edu

Utah Department of Health, Environmental Epidemiology Program at 801-538-6191, www.health.utah.gov/enviroepi